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French hymn as in your magazine for December 1809, page 423. I imagine your correspondent S. is desirous of an elegant poetical translation, which neither my abilities nor inclination permit—in my opinion the praise of Addison on this subject (much as I admire his writings) is very inappropriate; for what sincere Christian can imagine that a man, let him have been ever so wicked, if he repent and turn from his wickedness, can fail of partaking of the divine clemency; I am at a loss to conceive how this clemency can require his perdition, and how the interest of the Supreme Being can be in opposition to the ultimate happiness of even such a wretch. Y.R.

Dublin, Jan. 11, 1810.

To the Proprietors of the *Belfast Magazine*.

GENTLEMEN,
I HOPE you will have the goodness to insert in your respectable Magazine, the following extract from Dr. Rees' New Cyclopædia, article Education, which may serve to exhibit still more clearly the necessity of a radical reform in the present system of national instruction, adopted in this country, as well as in many other parts of the British empire; and it is also highly gratifying to observe, how exactly the sentiments of the learned writer of that article agree with those of your ingenious correspondents on the same subject. I am sir, yours, &c.

Dublin, Dec. 12, 1809. PHILOMUSUS.

"Happy had it been for Britain, if the 'warning counsels, the prophetic page' of *Currie**, had been listened to and followed by her statesmen. As far as our relation with other nations is concerned the time is past; but we may yet profit by those representations which show us what is to be done in order to raise the intellectual and moral character of the nation at large. It is not improbable that national reformation will begin with national distress; but it is not too much to say, that a per-

manent reformation in the condition and character of the poor, can only be brought about by a well-directed attention to their education, in connection with a proper regulation of the laws relative to the indigent poor. Whether in the counsels of an all-wise Providence, it is decreed, that Britain should be thrown from the lofty pinnacle to which she has elevated herself, time can only determine; but it appears clear, that the surest way of avoiding national judgments, is by endeavouring, each in his station, to reform those evils which affect our conduct and character as a nation; and in this point of view also, the communication of knowledge to the poor, may be considered as a national benefit, and as a probable means of lessening national punishment."

Cyclopædia, Vol. XII. part 2.

To the Proprietors of the *Belfast Magazine*.

AN ESSAY ON PUBLIC ADDRESSES.

GENTLEMEN,

LOOKING over an old newspaper a few days ago which contained an account of the late jubilee, with many feats of eating drinking, &c. performed by his Majesty's good and loyal subjects, to testify their joy, on that great and important occasion: and reading of so much good cheer, with the many loyal toasts drank, my thoughts were naturally led to contemplate the satisfaction his Majesty must receive on hearing of his good subjects being so very full of loyalty, roast beef, and wine, all at once, in perfect joy for his long and glorious reign. I also observed that addresses had not been totally wanting, to congratulate his Majesty, which doubtless were truly acceptable to the royal ear, as they mentioned nought of grievances, misconduct of ministers, parliamentary reform, nor Catholic emancipation. Now, addresses seem to me, generally, a species of flattery most destructive to princes; for the addressors, usually, instead of pointing out any errors in the conduct of the person they address, only, "fool them to the top of their

* D. Currie, the ingenious Editor of Burns' Works, &c.